

Los Angeles County Department of Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures

:: NEWS BULLETIN ::

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: July 30, 2002

Contact: Cato R. Fiksdal 626.575.5451

COUNTY SEALER REPORTS TO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ON STATUS OF *BUYER BEWARE PROGRAM* LISTING OF LATEST COMPLETED SCANNER OVERCHARGE CASES

Cato Fiksdal, Sealer for the County of Los Angeles, reported to the Board of Supervisors today on the progress in implementing the *Buyer Beware Program*. In addition, he announces publication of **twelve** completed retail overcharge cases.

Mr. Fiksdal presented a status report on the *Buyer Beware Program* six months after its start. Mr. Fiksdal stated, "The program is progressing very well, in fact, better than we anticipated." Since the start of the program in February, 2002, inspectors with the new Price Verification Division have inspected almost 600 stores. The undercover inspectors were overcharged at 34% of the stores. Notices were sent to over 7500 stores informing them of the program, and their need to register their scanners.

In addition to notifying the stores, the Department recently brought its inspection staff up to 12 people. "Our new staff is up and running, and we are now able to check price accuracy at a much wider variety of retailers," said Mr. Fiksdal. The Sealer's full report to the Board of Supervisors may be viewed on the Department web site, <http://acwm.co.la.ca.us>.

Listed below are cases completed during the month of February 2002:

1. **Albertson's Inc. #6166, 6350 W 3rd St., L.A.**

Date of offense: 1/17/01

Charges: 4 counts of scanner overcharge (\$5.25)

Convictions: 1 count, nolo contendere

Fines and fees: \$1423

more/more/more

2. **Albertson's Inc. #6547, 725 E. Huntington Drive, Monrovia**

Date of offense: 2/15/01

Charges: 11 counts of scanner overcharge (\$11.06)

Convictions: 2 counts, nolo contendere

Fines and fees: \$379

3. **Albertson's Inc. #6160, 1636 W. 25th St., San Pedro**

Date of offense: 3/6/01

Charges: 4 counts of scanner overcharge (\$2.90)

Convictions: 1 count, nolo contendere

Fines and fees: \$270

4. **Albertson's Inc. #687, 3480 S. La Brea Ave., L.A.**

Date of offense: 5/03/01

Charges: 4 counts of scanner overcharge (\$6.45)

Convictions: 1 count, nolo contendere

Fines and fees: \$1400

5. **Hows Markets, LLC #5, 4848 W. 190th St., Torrance**

Date of offense: 1/23/01

Charges: 4 counts of scanner overcharge (\$2.60)

Convictions: 1 count, nolo contendere

Fines and fees: \$1289

6. **Top Valu Market. #16, 4700 Inglewood Blvd., Culver City**

Date of offense: 2/27/01

Charges: 3 counts of scanner overcharge (\$1.20)

Convictions: 1 count, nolo contendere

Fines and fees: \$845

7. **Ralphs Grocery Co. #267, 14310 S. Hawthorne Blvd., Lawndale**

Date of offense: 3/08/01

Charges: 1 count of scanner overcharge (\$0.80)

Conviction: nolo contendere

Fines and fees: \$135

8. **Sav-On Drug Stores, INC. #3054, 5748 Mesmer Ave., Culver City**

Date of offense: 5/10/01

Charges: 1 count of scanner overcharge (\$0.90)

Conviction: nolo contendere

Fines and fees: \$370

9. **Staples, Inc.**

#480, 17020 Chatsworth Blvd., Granada Hills

60, 1830 S. La Cienega Blvd., L.A.

Date of offenses: 6/12/01, and 6/13/01

Charges: 4 counts of scanner overcharge

Convictions: 1 count, nolo contendere

Fines and fees: \$1567

10. **Trader Joe's Co. #31, 263 S. La Brea Ave., L.A.**

Date of offense: 1/17/01

Charge: 2 counts of overcharge (\$1.30)

Conviction: 1 count, nolo contendere

Fines and fees: \$270

11. **The Vons Cos. #263, 1342 N. Alvarado St., L.A.**

Date of offense: 2/13/01

Charge: 4 counts of scanner overcharge (\$3.20)

Conviction: 2 counts, nolo contendere

Fines and fees: \$919

12. **Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. #2526, 19821 Rinaldi St., Porter Ranch**

Date of offense: 8/08/00

Charge: 3 counts of scanner overcharge (\$4.99)

Conviction: 1 count, nolo contendere

Fines and fees: \$818